## Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following paragraph at page 1, line 6, after the title of the invention.

### Federally Sponsored Research and Development

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

## Abstract

~~The present invention is related to a~~ A method for allocating pending requests for data packet transmission at a number of inputs to a number of outputs of a switching system in successive time slots, ~~wherein according to a matching method the allocation of the pending requests is optimized, wherein the~~ including a matching method ~~includes a number of steps for incrementally allocating the requests, wherein as a result of each step a matching information is provided, wherein in each time slot a request information is provided, the request information indicating the data packets at the inputs requesting transmission to respective outputs, the matching method comprising~~ including the steps of providing a first request information in a first time ~~slot,~~ slot indicating data packets at the inputs requesting transmission to the outputs of the switching system, performing a first step in the first time slot depending on the first request information to obtain a first matching ~~information;~~ information, providing a last request information in a last time slot successive ~~to~~ the first time ~~slot;~~ slot, performing a last step in the last time slot depending on the last request information and depending on the first matching information to obtain a final matching ~~information;~~ information, and assigning the pending data packets at the number of inputs to the number of outputs ~~in dependence~~ based on the final matching information.